

THOMAS H. AND AGNES
SWAIN JONES



Thomas H Jones was born February 24, 1879, at Uintah, Utah. He was the son of John T. Jones, a native of Wales and Margaret Irvin from Pittsburg, Pa. Married Agnes Swain in 1903 at Daniel. She was a daughter of Robert and Sophia Swain. Agnes died August 5, 1958 at Daniel. Tom died September 2, 1961, in Salt Lake City.

Soon after the Union Pacific and the Central railroads were joined at Promontory Point by the driving of the Golden Spike, John T. Jones, who was born in Wales, and his wife, Margaret Irvin and their living children arrived in Utah from Pittsburgh, Pa. They settled at Uintah, a small settlement in the Weber River bottoms near Ogden.

They lived in a dirt roofed house with a dirt floor and John got work with the railroad. The pay was low. They went through all the rigors of pioneering that the early settlers endured. Later on John and one son homesteaded land on what is now the Hill Field Air Base where only dry land wheat could be raised.

When Tom was eight years old, his father died leaving his wife with a family to raise. She never married again. Tom worked at any kind of work for the neighbors, to help a little but his mother managed somehow. Later he got a job as janitor at the frame

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school building, typical of the times where there were 30 or 40 pupils for one teacher.

Tom's mother finally got a job cooking for a section crew of 6 to 8 men and caring for the bunk house crew. This was at Devil's Gate in Weher Canyon where they lived for eight years. They had heavy winters with lots of snow even in the lower valleys. Large snow slides came down which blocked the trains three days at a time, which men with their equipment worked around the clock to clear. One big slide came down near their home, about 65 feet deep. Another caught a train crew, killing the engineer and injuring the fireman and brakeman.

Tom wasn't very old when they gave him a job as night watchman. He says, "the mountain lions roared until I was frightened stiff. I had to go over my route every hour—seemed like an extra long night to me. Then he got a job with the Utah Construction Co. in Idaho, winding grade shoulders for the railroad company. Idaho Falls was a very small town then, with just a few houses and it was very windy. Most of the work was done by team. Tom driving either single or sometimes double teams.

He came home from there and went to Park City where he worked at the old Sampson north of town under Fred W. Hayt, for a number of years and then for Bishop William D. Lewis, as a bookkeeper at his coal yard office for 10 years.

Tom and his wife, Agnes, moved to Daniel where Tom had purchased the Anna C. Wahlquist farm. Agnes was a very efficient and devoted wife to Tom. After her death Tom sold his home and moved to Heber.

They were the parents of Florence, Clarence, Horace Lester, Marjorie and Maxine.

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